

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. The pending claims are subject to the Restriction/Election Requirements imposed in the Office Action mailed July 21, 2006.

Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and Election of Species

Election

The Office Action has required restriction to one of the following groups: Group I (claims 1-12, 15-16, and 18-20) and Group II (claims 13-14 and 17). The Office Action has further required, in the event Group I is elected, further restriction to one of the following subgroups: Subgroup IA (claims 1-12), Subgroup IB (claims 15-16), and Subgroup IC (claims 18-20).

This restriction requirement acknowledges that the subject matter of Groups I and II, as well as Subgroups IA, IB, IC, IIX, and IYY, as identified in the Office Action, constitute separately patentable inventions. MPEP § 806.04(h).

In response, Applicants elect the invention of Group I, Subgroup IA (claims 1-12).

Applicants hereby elect the following species for examination:

The method for making laminated veneer lumber (LVL) from a plurality of wood veneers, as described in Example 4. In particular, the adhesive used was designated "Present Invention Adhesive" and comprised a PF resin-based adhesive mixture (containing 28-40% solids), combined with an AF resin-based cure promoter mixture (containing 33-36% resin solids), in a weight ratio of 80/20 PF resin-based adhesive mixture/AF resin-based cure promoter mixture. The phenol-formaldehyde (PF) component of the adhesive used in each test had M_n , M_w , and M_z values ranging from about 450-550 g/mol, 2200-3000 g/mol, and 6000-8900 g/mol, respectively.

As described in Example 4, the adhesive was applied to southern yellow pine veneers and laid up as 15-ply LVL, 1.75-inch thick billets. The veneers had a 0.125 inch thickness and a moisture content between 6 and 8%. Press or curing conditions were 340°F (171°C) and 275 psig.

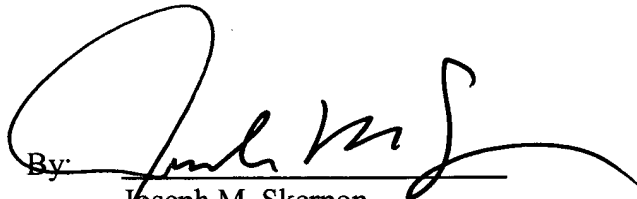
It is believed that claims 1-9, 11, and 12 of Subgroup IA read on this elected species.

Applicants respectfully request, upon a finding that the elected subject matter is allowable, that claims directed to the non-elected subject matter be rejoined.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Skerpon", written over a horizontal line.

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